

DEQ TRANSMISSION LINE PERMITTING

It is the intent of the Montana Association of Counties to seek legislative and/or budgetary relief that speeds the permitting and siting process for new transmission lines through the Department of Environmental Quality.

WHEREAS, many of Montana's counties facing economic stagnation are rich in wind resources, which promise new economic opportunities, and;

WHEREAS, the development of wind resources is directly dependent on the growth of transmission lines to transport the power produced to high paying and lucrative markets, and;

WHEREAS, the Montana Alberta Tie Line (MATL) will have a multi-million dollar impact on North Central Montana once it is built; and

WHEREAS, transmission lines are critical to transport renewable power from our growing electrical energy businesses to distant markets; and

WHEREAS, MATL affected counties are confident that once the MATL line is constructed, other transmission lines will follow, encouraging wind and other energy developers to do business in Montana; and

WHEREAS, based on the experiences of counties working with the Montana Alberta Tie Line through the cumbersome process of permitting and siting, MACo believes that the current process is detrimental to the future expansion of transmission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Counties seeks legislative and/or budgetary relief that speeds the permitting and siting process for new transmission lines through the Department of Environmental Quality.

SPONSOR: Districts 4 & 5

RECOMMENDATION: Do Pass

PRIORITY: High

REFERRED TO: Energy Committee
Land Use Committee

ADOPTED: Annual Conference, Hamilton, MT September 24, 2008